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**Anchorage Port Commission Meeting Minutes**

**Date: September 27, 2023**

**Scheduled Time: 12pm – 2pm**

**Location: Port of Alaska Conference Room/virtual via Microsoft Teams**

<b>Present</b>	<b>Port Commissioners:</b>	Aves Thompson, Vice-Shair; Scott Selzer; Chris Manculich; Peggy Rotan; Paul Mehler; Kevin Mackey; Stephanie Kesler
	<b>Staff:</b>	Steve Ribuffo, Port Director; Cheryl Beckham, Finance and Administration Manager; Mike Rhodes, Port Engineer; John Daley, PAMP Engineer Manager; Jim Jager, Programs, Policies and Security Director; Paul Rotkis, POA Safety
	<b>Guests:</b>	Sarah Rygh (Jacobs Engineering); Lev Yampolsky (PetroStar); Bert Mattingly (ASIG); Cynthia Kirkham (DEC); Jade Gamble (DEC)
<b>Absent</b>	<b>Port Commissioners:</b>	Ron Ward, Mike Robbins
	<b>Staff:</b>	Diane Bickford, Ronnie Poole

**NOTE:** Brian Weigand, port engineer manager, resigned and left the staff since the last meeting. Mike Rhodes is Port of Alaska’s new engineer manager.

- I. **Meeting was called to order at 12:02 PM** – Commissioners, staff, and guest attendance is as shown above. There was a quorum.
- II. **Pledge of Allegiance** – Led by Commissioner Mehler.
- III. **Safety Minute** – Mr. Rotkis gave a gripping presentation about hazard of “half plugged in” extension cords or appliances. The melted plugs provided a memorable visual!
- IV. **Approval of Agenda** – Moved by Commissioner Rotan and seconded by Commissioner Manculich, then approved unanimously with no edits.
- V. **Approval of Minutes of the May 3 and July 5, 2023, Meetings** – The May 3, 2023, minutes were moved for approval by Commissioner Manculich, seconded by Commissioner Mehler, and unanimously approved by all. The July 5, 2023, minutes were moved for approval by Commissioner Mehler, seconded by Commissioner Manculich, and unanimously approved by all.
- VI. **Port Director’s Comments** – Port Director Steve Ribuffo covered four items:
  - a. Welcome to new Port Engineer Mike Rhodes
  - b. Welcome Commissioner Stephanie Kesler back to Commission
  - c. Apologies for Ronnie Poole’s absence
  - d. His e-mail to Anchorage Assembly regarding the Ship Creek Small Boat Launch – Mr. Ribuffo addressed the e-mail he sent to Assembly members, and shared with the Commissioners, about not budgeting any FY24 capital dollars for Ship Creek boat launch repairs. There will be a discussion meeting scheduled with the Assembly to provide Assembly members with more information and time for Q&A.

**VII. Informational Items –**

- a. Engineering (Mike Rhodes) – Mr. Rhodes introduced himself and gave a brief report about PCT-related “clean up” items that were under way since the Port took possession of the facility. A more thorough report will be provided next meeting after he’s had time to get more familiar with the issues.
- b. Operations and Maintenance (Ronnie Poole) – Mr. Ribuffo presented for Mr. Poole, who was on PTO. The report included mention of the uneventful port call with the cruise ship *M/S Noordam*, that fourth of five cement deliveries was under way at the PCT, maintenance team was gearing up for winter operations and readying all the equipment, and some fender damage was found in T2 and was being addressed by PoA maintenance team and engineer.
- c. PAMP (John Daley) – Mr. Daley provide a detailed rundown of progress being made on Phase 2 projects under way: NES1 and Administration building. It was suggested that we set time aside at next Port Commission meeting for tours of all PAMP work sites. Mr. Ribuffo said he would arrange.
- d. Finances (Cheryl Beckham) – Ms. Beckham provided run down of the September expenses to date, and informed Commission that work was under way to prepare for FY24 budget meetings with Mayor’s office and Assembly.
- e. Business Programs, Policies and Security (Jim Jager) – Mr. Jager gave an update on the status of grant applications that were in works and reported that we’ve submitted a \$102 million PIDP grant request and were awaiting results due in late October.

**VIII. Old Business** – There was no old business to discuss.

**IX. Correspondence Received by Commission** – Mr. Ribuffo sent Commissioners before the meeting an e-mail request from American Association of Port Authorities to reach out to Alaska Delegation member Rep. Mary Peltola with a letter of support for her effort to have passed by Congress a Port Infrastructure Permitting Empowerment Act (PIPEA), which would urge the permitting agencies to accelerate permitting process and provide favorable but reasonable permit conditions on port infrastructure programs.

**X. New Business** – The one item of new business was for Commissioners to agree to language in letter of support to Rep. Peltola regarding PIPEA. After some discussion and minor amendments, a motion to approve the letter as amended was offered by Commissioner Kesler and seconded by Commissioner Manculich. It passed unanimously. Mr. Ribuffo was directed to forward the signed letter (Vice-Chair Thompson signed in Chair Ward’s absence) to Rep. Peltola’s staff.

**XI. Public Comments** – None were offered.

**XII. Port Director’s Closing Comments** – Mr. Ribuffo closed addressing three points:

- a. Atlas Towers Lease
- b. Design Advisory Board
- c. Port Commission Drive-Around at next meeting

**XIII. Commissioners Closing Comments** – Commissioner Mehler gave kudos to PoA staff for installing safety cables on petroleum dock man baskets. Commissioner Kesler took a moment to say how happy she was to be back on the Commission. Commissioner Manculich gave compliments to the Navy League for the work done at Ship Creek Point to create the new Sea Services Memorial. He said he and Commissioner Rotan attended the dedication ceremony and that anyone who hasn’t had the chance to visit memorial should make the time to do so because it is very well done.

**XIV. Next Meeting:** November 15, 2023

**XV. Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 PM**